

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A method of determining access, the method comprising the steps
2 of:
3 receiving one or more requests to access a system; and
4 for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access
5 vector to identify an available access object.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the access object comprises information
2 regarding attributes of the access object.

3 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step of determining further comprises the
4 step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available access object based
5 on one or more attributes of that access object.

6 4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of returning a result to
7 the request.

8 5. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access
9 vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the system.

1 6. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying the access
2 vector to modify a number of access objects.

3 7. The method of claim 6, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

4 8. The method of claim 6, wherein the number of access objects is decreased.

1 9. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of modifying one or more
2 attributes of an access object.

1 10. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of allowing one request
2 at a time to manipulate the access vector.

1 11. An apparatus for determining access, comprising:
2 a computer;
3 one or more computer programs, performed by the computer, for receiving one or
4 more requests to access a system and, for each request, determining whether to allow access
5 to the system using an access vector to identify an available access object.

1 12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the access object comprises information
2 regarding attributes of the access object.

1 13. The apparatus of claim 12, wherein the means for determining further
2 comprises the means for evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an available
3 access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

1 14. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for returning a result to
2 the request.

1 15. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the
2 access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its access to the
3 system.

1 16. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying the
2 access vector to modify a number of access objects.

1 17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the number of access objects is increased.

1 18. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the number of access objects is
2 decreased.

1 19. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for modifying one or
2 more attributes of an access object.

1 20. The apparatus of claim 11, further comprising means for allowing one
2 request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

1 21. An article of manufacture comprising a computer program carrier readable
2 by a computer and embodying one or more instructions executable by the computer to
3 perform method steps for determining access, the method comprising the steps of:
4 receiving one or more requests to access a system; and
5 for each request, determining whether to allow access to the system using an access
6 vector to identify an available access object.

7 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the access object comprises
8 information regarding attributes of the access object.

1 23. The article of manufacture of claim 22, wherein the step of determining
2 further comprises the step of evaluating whether the request can be satisfied with an
3 available access object based on one or more attributes of that access object.

1 24. The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of
2 returning a result to the request.

1 25. The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of
2 modifying the access vector upon receiving an indication that a request has completed its
3 access to the system.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of
2 modifying the access vector to modify a number of access objects.

1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the number of access objects
2 is increased.

1 28. The article of manufacture of claim 26, wherein the number of access objects
2 is decreased.

1 29. The article of manufacture of claim 21, further comprising the step of
2 modifying one or more attributes of an access object.

1 30. The article of manufacture of claim 28, further comprising the step of
2 allowing one request at a time to manipulate the access vector.

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